accompanying aircraft on special duties; and

(d) whether Government would consider their cases and give adequate ration at par with the Air Crews?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (d) On VVIP flights operated by Air India, the ground staff of the crew are provided with adequate meals on board. They are also provided with hotel accommodation and allowances are paid according to rules and regulations of the Corporation.

Free Railway Passes to Freedom Fighters

972. SHRI SOHANLAL DHUSIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to tate:

(a) what is the number of free Railway passes issued to the freedom fighters for one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that the free railway passes issued for one year are to be converted in permanent passes; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During the calendar year 1988, 37,497 complimentary Card Passes were issued to the freedom fighters.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. No such decision has been communicated to us by the Home Ministry which is the nodal Ministry.

Talks between Chairman, KVS and AIKVTA

973. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks were held between Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association representatives recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) A delegation of All India Kendriya Vidyalaya Teachers Association called on the Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on 28th Nov., '88. The delegation had preliminary discussions on matters relating to transfer of teachers and Principals, enhancement of promotional quota of teachers; pay scale of Music Teachers; teaching allowance to Laboratory Asstts. revival of cadre of Laboratory Asstts. in Kendriya Vidyalaya; introduction of optional subjects like drawing, Music etc. in Secondary and Senior Secondary levels; provision of class IV employees for school libraries; representation of employees of Kendriya Vidayalaya Sangathan on the Board and payment of salary to the teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas who went on Mass Casual Leave in August, 1984.

In pursuance of the above mentioned discussions, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan decided that the requests for transfer of teachers suffering from terminal illness would be considered all through the year. Since a substantial proportion of teachers promoted/selected as Post Graduate Teachers and Vice-Principals in 1988 did not join in the postings offered to them in distant States under the extent transfer guidelines, the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan decided that they may be offered postings in nearby States, to the extent feasible. The matter regarding grant of teaching allowance to Laboratory Assistants has not been finally disposed of. The suggestion for increasing the Pay scales of Music Teachers has not been found acceptable. The suggestion for revival of

the cadre of Laboratory Assistants, introduction of a large number of subjects like Drawing, Music etc. at plus 2 stage and provision of class IV employees for school library have not been found acceptable. The Joint Consultative Machinery has been constituted in the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan which will provide the appropriate forum for bilateral talks.

Agha Khan as State Guest in India

974. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agha Khan, the religious head of the Ismaili community was treated as state guest when he visited New Delhi earlier this year and the capitals of Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the names of other religious heads who have been treated as state guest when they visited Delhi or capitals of various States;

(c) whether the Agha Khan made any donation to any person or organisation; if so, what are the details thereof:

(d) what is the nationality of the Agha Khan; and

(e) what are the norms and guidelines for inviting religious heads to the country and to be treated as state guests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the recent past, His Holiness Pope John Paul-II was treated as guest of the Government of India during his visit to India from February 1 to 10, 1986.

(c) It is not known to the Ministry of External Affairs whether any donation was made.

(d) His Highness the Aga Khan is British by birth and holds a French passport.

(e) No norms or guidelines have been laid down in this regard and there is no need to lay down such norms.

Crash Programme of Education for the benefit of SCs/STs

975. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate a crash programme of education and other developmental inputs for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in hamlets which do *not* have primary schools, but have 200 or more Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes members;

(b) whether about 10,000 habitations have been identified under the programme in 10 States;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether Madhya Pradesh is one of them; and

(d) by what time the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) to (d) Under the Action Plan in Key Areas for the Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government propose a package of services in 10,000 habitations having 200 or more Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe population (or combination of both) in States having a sizeable SC/ST population, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.